



1 JEFF Read PCT/PTO 01 MAY 2001
09/830773 PCT \$

Daniel O'Byrne
Via del Parione, 8
50123 Florence, ITALY
tel. +(39)(055) 282.261
fax +(39)(055) 265.0350

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington D.C. 20231

Request for Entry into National Stage in the United States of America as a Designated Office
under 35 U.S.C. 371 and 37 CFR 1.495

Sir,

Applicant herewith makes a submission for entering the U.S. National Stage as a Designated Office under 35 U.S.C. 371 of the following International Application:

International Application No. PCT/IB00/01197

Applicant: SARTORE, Almerigo

International Filing Date: 29 August 2000

Agent's Ref.: 1114

The following documentation is attached hereto:

- Copy of Published International Application PCT/IB00/01197.
- Combined Declaration/Authorization, duly executed by the inventor.
- Assignment (with Assignment Recordation Cover Sheet), duly executed by the inventor.
- Small Entity Statement, duly executed by the assignee.
- Information Disclosure Statement under 37 CFR § 1.97(b).
- Preliminary Amendment.
- Check (US\$ 470.00), to cover the basic national fee under 37 CFR 1.492(a)(5) (US\$ 430.00) and assignment recording fee (US\$ 40.00).
- Self-addressed return postcard.

Please address all future correspondence, marked with an **AIR MAIL** label or stamp, to:

Daniel O'Byrne
Via del Parione, 8
50123 FLORENCE, ITALY (EUROPE)

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel O'Byrne (Reg. No. 36,625)
Agent for the Applicant

Date: April 26, 2001
Address: Via del Parione, 50123 FLORENCE-ITALY
Telephone: (from USA) (011)(39)(055)282-261

Encl.

09/830773

JC18 Rec'd PCT/PTO 01 MAY 2001
Agent's Docket N. 1114

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:)
National Stage of PCT/IB00/01197)
Applicant: SARTORE, Almerigo)
Ser. No.: unknown) Group Art Unit: unknown
Filed: unknown) Examiner: unknown
For: SUPPORT STRUCTURE FOR)
BICYCLE BOTTLES AND)
SIMILAR CONTAINERS)

Assistant Commissioner for Patents

Washington D.C. 20231 USA

Preliminary Amendment

Sir,

Please amend the text of the published International Application of the above-identified application as follows:

T001050 43200000000

In the Claims:

Cancel the original claims 1-15 and add the following new claims 16-29:

16. A support structure for bicycle bottles or similar containers, comprising a unitary supporting cage-like or three dimensional frame, anchoring means for attachment thereof to a bicycle frame or to a similar member, said supporting frame comprising a rear anchoring post with an upper end from which two substantially symmetrical and diverging arms extend so as to embrace the lateral wall of a bottle, the lower ends of said arms converging and being reciprocally joined so as to form a lower appendix directed towards said post and adapted to support the bottom wall of the bottle, said arms and said post being located along a substantially cylindrical surface having an inner diameter that is slightly larger than the conventional diameter of the bottle to be supported, said arms comprising a first portion directed upwardly and forwardly, and a second portion directed downwardly and forwardly, which portions are continuously connected and bent along a curved space line with no sharp bends, the inside edges of said arms having lower converging ends and a span that is continuously increasing along said first portion and continuously decreasing along said second portion towards said lower appendix.

17. Support structure according to claim 16, wherein the span between the inside edges of said lower converging ends has a maximum value smaller than or equal to the half of said inner diameter at a distance from said appendix that is substantially equal to said inner diameter.

18. Support structure according to claim 16, wherein said inner diameter has a predetermined size ranging between 40 mm and 50 mm and preferably equal to approximately 45 mm so as to be smaller than those of traditional bottles and to reduce the transversal encumbrance of the supporting frame.

19. Support structure according to claim 16, wherein said arms and said post are unitarily formed and in that they have a substantially plate configuration with plane cross-section so as to define a monolithic supporting frame.

20. Support structure according to claim 16, wherein said supporting frame is formed starting from a metal plate or from a plastic sheet.

21. Support for bottle according to claim 16, wherein said supporting frame is provided with one or more lightening holes peripherally located along said arms.

22. Support structure according to claim 16, wherein said supporting frame is provided with means for gripping the bottle located along said arms.

23. Support structure according to claim 22, wherein said gripping means comprise at least a resilient pad.

24. Support structure according to claim 23, wherein said gripping means comprise at least a planar element made of a relatively rigid material that houses internally thereof a pad made of a resiliently flexible material.

25. Support structure according to claim 23, wherein said resiliently flexible pad comprises a rigid spherical member held in place by a boss made of a resiliently flexible material.

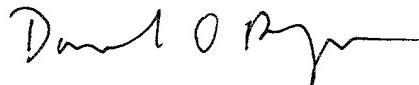
26. Support structure according to claim 23, wherein said resiliently flexible material is chosen in the group comprising gels, rubbers or plastic materials.

27. Support structure according to claim 22, wherein said gripping means comprises at least a pad of rubber or plastic material located along said post.

28. Support structure according to claim 26, wherein each pad has at least one transverse chevron groove so shaped to permit downward insertion and preventing easy upward removal of a bottle within said support frame.

29. Support structure according to claim 26, wherein said gripping means further comprises at least one rubber or plastics lips fitted onto the upper edges of said arms to further hold the bottle upon location thereof into said supporting frame.

Respectfully submitted,



Daniel O'Byrne (Reg. No. 36,625)
Agent for the Applicant

Date: April 26, 2001
Address: Via del Parione, 50123 FLORENCE-ITALY
Telephone: (from USA) (011)(39)(055)282-261

PCT/IB00/01197

09/830773

Rec'd PCT/PTO 01 MAY 2001
PCT/IB00/01197

WO 01/17845

SUPPORT STRUCTURE FOR BICYCLE BOTTLES AND SIMILAR CONTAINERS

Field of the invention

- 5 The present invention relates to a support structure for bicycle bottles suitable for practising sports and leisure, or for similar containers, of the type comprising a cage-like or three dimensional supporting frame, as well as anchoring means for attaching to a bicycle frame or to a similar member.

10

Background of the invention

- Supports of the above mentioned type are known in the art, wherein the supporting frame is formed by a wire wound and bent in different ways, and so shaped as to house a bicycle bottle. An example of said known conventional supports is disclosed in the Italian application for utility model application No. VI93U000020 filed by the same applicant.

- Several drawbacks and shortcomings of said known types of supports are to be found in their excessive cost and weight, in their limited gripping action on the bottle, in their remarkable cross sectional encumbrance and in their insufficient aerodynamic efficiency.

Summary of the invention

- 25 The support structure according to the present invention aims at overcoming the above mentioned drawbacks, by providing a support structure for bicycle bottles and similar containers that features a remarkable cost-effectiveness, enhanced mechanical gripping action on the bottle, and further a reduced encumbrance and a suitably enhanced aerodynamic efficiency.

30

The above aim is accomplished by a support of the above outlined type which, according to claim 1, is characterised in that said supporting frame comprises a rear anchoring post with an upper end, two arms extending from the upper end and being substantially symmetrical and diverging from each other, said arms 5 further being at least partially bent upwardly, forwardly, and downwardly so as to embrace the lateral wall of a bicycle bottle, the lower ends of said arms converging and being reciprocally joined so as to form a lower appendix directed towards said post, said appendix being suitable for supporting the bottom wall of said bicycle bottle.

10

Advantageously the arms and the post of said supporting frame are located over a substantially cylindrical surface having an inner diameter that is slightly larger than that of the bicycle bottle or container to be supported.

15

A main feature of the present invention is that the minimum distance between the inner edges of the lower converging ends of said arms is substantially equal or smaller than the half of said inner diameter at a distance from said appendix that is equal or smaller than said inner diameter. Thanks to this relationship, the supporting structure guarantees an excellent gripping action on the bicycle 20 bottle even in heavy situations.

25

Advantageously, the inner diameter of the cylindrical surface is sized so as to be capable of supporting cycling bottles having a diameter that is shorter than the standard lengths, so as to reduce the encumbering width of the supporting frame and to increase its aerodynamic efficiency.

Brief description of the drawings

Further features and advantages will be more apparent from the detailed 30 description of several preferred embodiments of the support structure according

to the present invention, illustrated by way of not limiting examples with reference to the annexed tables of drawings, wherein:

Fig. 1 represents a front view of a first embodiment of the support structure without gripping means for a bottle;

5 Fig. 2 represents a lateral view of the support structure of Fig. 1, sectioned along a diametral vertical plane;

Fig. 3 is a plan view from above of the support structure of Fig. 1;

Fig. 4 is a front view of a second embodiment of support structure according to the present invention;

10 Fig. 5 is a lateral view of the support structure of Fig. 4, sectioned along a diametral sectional plane;

Fig. 6 is a plan view from above of the support structure of Fig. 4;

Fig. 7 is a sectional view in greater scale of a detail of Fig. 4;

15 Fig. 8 is a front view of a third embodiment of support structure according to the present invention;

Fig. 9 is a lateral view of the support structure of Fig. 8 sectioned along a diametral vertical plane;

Fig. 10 is a plan view from above of the support structure of Fig. 8;

Fig. 11 is a sectional view in greater scale of a detail of Fig. 8;

20 Fig. 12 is a front view of a fourth embodiment of support structure according to the present invention;

Fig. 13 is a lateral view of the support structure of Fig. 12, sectioned along a vertical diametral plane;

Fig. 14 is a plan view from above of the support structure of Fig. 12;

25 Fig. 15 is a sectional view in greater scale of a detail of Fig. 14;

Fig. 16 is a front view of a fifth support structure according to the present invention;

Fig. 17 is a lateral view of the support structure of Fig. 16;

30 Fig. 18 is a lateral view of the support of Fig. 16 sectioned along a vertical diametral plane;

Fig. 19 is a general perspective view of a support structure for bicycle bottles of the present invention in its operating condition.

Description of a preferred form of embodiment

5

With reference to the figures, a support structure for bicycle bottles and similar containers, overall indicated with the reference numeral 1, comprises a supporting frame 2 made of a relatively rigid material, suitable to house and removably hold internally thereof a bottle B schematically depicted in Fig. 19
10 with dotted lines.

According to the invention, the supporting frame 2 essentially comprises a back anchoring post 3 extending along a longitudinal axis L, with two supporting arms 4, 5 extending from the upper end of post 3.

15

Preferably, post 3 has a substantially "C" shaped section and is provided with means for anchoring to a bicycle frame or a similar member. In this particular case, said anchoring means consist of two holes 6 formed in corresponding recesses 7 for screw heads.

20

Arms 4, 5 are symmetrical and diverging from the longitudinal axis L, and they are bent along a curved space line first upwardly, then forwardly and eventually downwardly in order to embrace the lateral wall of bottle B.

25 Suitably, the lower ends 8, 9 of arms 4,5 converge and are reciprocally joined so as to form a substantially "V" or "U" shaped lower appendix 10 directed towards post 3 and adapted to support the bottom wall of bottle B.

Suitably, the post 3 and the arms 4, 5 are located along a substantially
30 cylindrical surface having an inner diameter D that is slightly larger than

diameter \emptyset of bottle B.

- The lower ends 8, 9 of arms 4, 5 are formed so as to be capable of holding bottle B in a stable and reliable manner in every operating conditions, thereby
- 5 avoiding any accidental removal thereof from the space between the inside edges of arms 4, 5.

To this end, at a predetermined distance h from appendix 10, the span d between the inside edges of lower converging edges 8, 9 of arms 4, 5 has a

10 predetermined maximum value.

In particular, at a distance h which equals to the value D of the inner diameter of the supporting frame 2, the span d is smaller than or equal to the value of said inner diameter D.

15

Such a condition may be summarised as follows:

$$\text{for } h = D \Rightarrow d = D/2$$

Preferably, the width of arms 4, 5 in correspondence of their curved upper areas

20 is slightly smaller than half the length of the inner diameter, more specifically it is approximately equal to D/2.2.

The inner diameter D is sized so as to house bottles having an outer diameter \emptyset smaller than their standard sizes, so as to reduce the encumbering width of the

25 supporting frame, thus remarkably reducing the transversal encumbrance and the aerodynamic drag, and optimising the aerodynamic efficiency of the bottle support. By way of example, the diameter D may range between 40 mm. and 50 mm., and may preferably be 45 mm long.

30 Preferably, the post 3 and the arms 4, 5 are unitarily formed and have a plate

configuration with a plane cross-section so as to define a supporting frame 2 of a continuous and monolithic type, that can be obtained by moulding or injection moulding.

- 5 For example, monolithic structure 2 may be produced starting from a metal plate or from a multi-sandwich type plastic sheet.

The supporting structure 2 may be provided with one or more lightening holes 11, 12 or with slits shaped as a writing or a symbol positioned peripherally of
10 the frame and along arms 4, 5.

- In general, the supporting structure 2 may be provided with the bottle gripping means located along arms 4, 5.
- 15 In the embodiment shown in Figs. 1 to 3, no gripping means are provided, because such function is uniquely exerted by the plastic material forming the supporting frame 2.

The embodiment shown in Figures 4 to 7 differs from the previous one only in
20 that the gripping means consist of a centrally located pad 14 formed by an ellipsoidal shaped plate 15 made of a relatively rigid material that is anchored to portions 8, 9 of arms 4, 5, the pad 14 centrally supports a ball 16 resiliently held by a boss 17 made of a resiliently flexible material, rubber or plastics for example. Thus, bottle B will be resiliently clamped by the ball 16 against the
25 elastic biasing action of boss 17.

The embodiment shown in Figures 8 to 11 differs from the previous one only in that the gripping means consist of a resilient pad 18 made of a boss 19 of resiliently flexible material, held by an ellipsoidally shaped connecting plate 20.

The resiliently flexible material forming the boss may be chosen among the group including gels, rubbers or plastic materials.

The embodiment shown in Fig. 12 to 15 differs from the previous one only in
5 that the gripping means for the bottle B consist of a pair of substantially identical supports 21, each formed by a metal or plastic shell 22 which can be inserted into corresponding seats of portions 8, 9 of arms 4, 5, each shell housing internally thereof a pad 23 made of gel, rubber or formed by a small air chamber.

10

The embodiment shown in Fig. 16 to 18 differs from the previous ones essentially in that the gripping means for bottle B consist of a series of small elliptical rubber or plastic pads 24 formed on post 3 and provided with one or more transverse chevron groves 25, permitting the downward insertion of the
15 bottle into the support frame while preventing upward easy removal thereof. The gripping means further comprise two rubber or plastic lips 26 inserted on to the upper edges of arms 4, 5 to further increase the gripping action on bottle B.

According to the foregoing description, it is clear that the support accomplishes
20 its aims and particularly entails reduced weight, limited encumbrance reduced aerodynamic drag, and higher reliability in terms of capability to firmly hold the bottle.

The instant application is based upon Italian patent application VI99U000073,
25 filed on 3 September 1999, the disclosure of which is hereby expressly incorporated by reference thereto, and the priority of which is hereby claimed.

CLAIMS

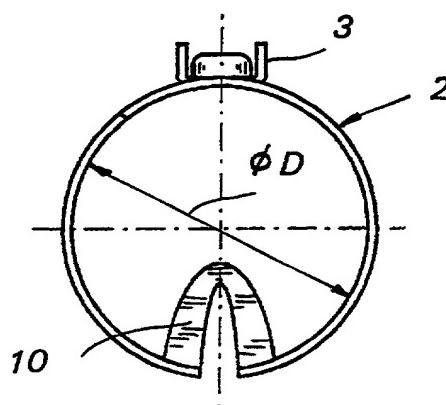
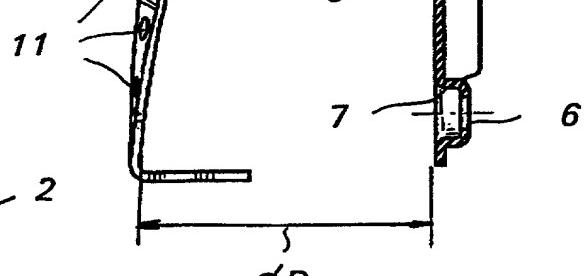
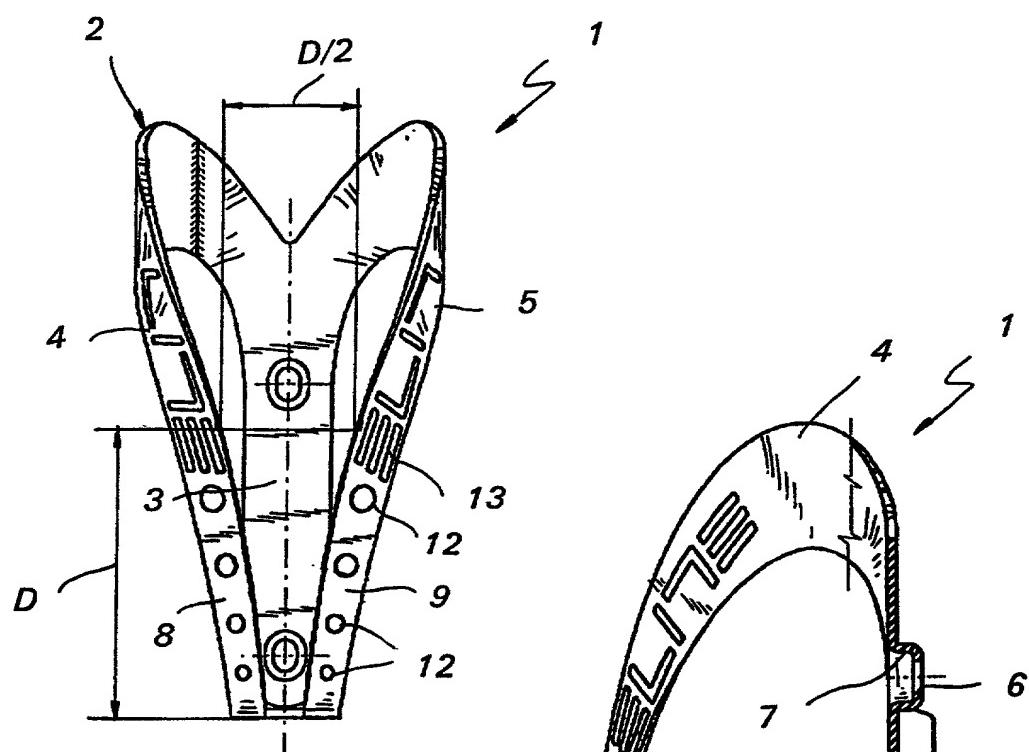
1. A support structure for bicycle bottles or similar containers (B), comprising a unitary supporting cage-like or three dimensional frame (2), anchoring means (6, 7) for securing to a bicycle frame or to a similar member, characterised in that said supporting frame (2) comprises a rear anchoring post (3) with an upper end from which two substantially symmetrical and diverging arms (4, 5) extend, said arms (4, 5) being at least partially bent upwardly, forwardly and downwardly so as to embrace the lateral wall of a bottle (B), the lower ends (8, 9) of said arms (4, 5) converging and being reciprocally joined so as to form a lower appendix (10) directed towards the post (3), and adapted to support the bottom wall of the bottle (B).
- 15
2. Support structure according to claim 1, characterised in that said arms (4, 5) and said post (3) are located along a substantially cylindrical surface having an inner diameter (D) that is slightly larger than the conventional diameter (\emptyset) of the bottle (B) to be supported.
- 20
3. Support structure according to claim 2, characterised in that the inside edges of the lower converging ends (8, 9) of said arms house a maximum span (d) that is smaller than or equal to the half of said inner diameter (D) at a distance (h) from said appendix that is substantially equal to said inner diameter (D).
- 25
4. Support structure according to claim 2, characterised in that said inner diameter (D) has a predetermined side ranging between 40 mm and 50 mm and preferably equal to approximately 45 mm so as to be smaller than those of traditional bottles and to reduce the transversal
- 30

encumbrance of the supporting frame (2).

5. Support structure according to claim 1, characterised in that said arms (4, 5) and said post (3) are unitarily formed and in that they have a substantially plate configuration with plane cross-section so as to define a monolithic supporting frame.
10. Support structure according to claim 1, characterised in that said supporting frame (2) is formed starting from a metal plate or from a plastic sheet.
15. Support for bottle according to claim 1, characterised in that said supporting frame (2) is provided with one or more lightening holes (11, 12, 13) peripherally located along said arms.
20. 9. Support structure according to claim 8, characterised in that said gripping means comprise at least a resilient pad (17, 19, 23).
25. 10. Support structure according to claim 1, characterised in that said gripping means comprise at least a planar element (15, 20, 22) made of a relatively rigid material that houses internally thereof a pad made of a resiliently flexible material.
30. 11. Support structure according to claim 10, characterised in that said resiliently flexible pad comprises a rigid spherical member (16) held in place by a boss (17) made of a resiliently flexible material.

12. Support structure according to claim 10 or 11, characterised in that said resiliently flexible material is chosen in the group comprising gels, rubbers or plastic materials.
- 5 13. Support structure according to claim 1, characterised in that said gripping means comprises at least a pad (24) of rubber or plastic material located along said post (3).
- 10 14. Support structure according to claim 13, characterised in that each pad (24) has at least one transverse chevron groove (25) so shaped to permit downward insertion and preventing easy upward removal of a bottle within said support frame (2).
- 15 15. Support structure according to claim 13, characterised in that said gripping means further comprises at least one rubber or plastics lips (26) fitted onto the upper edges of said arms (4, 5) to further hold the bottle (B) upon location thereof into said supporting frame (2).

1/6



2/6

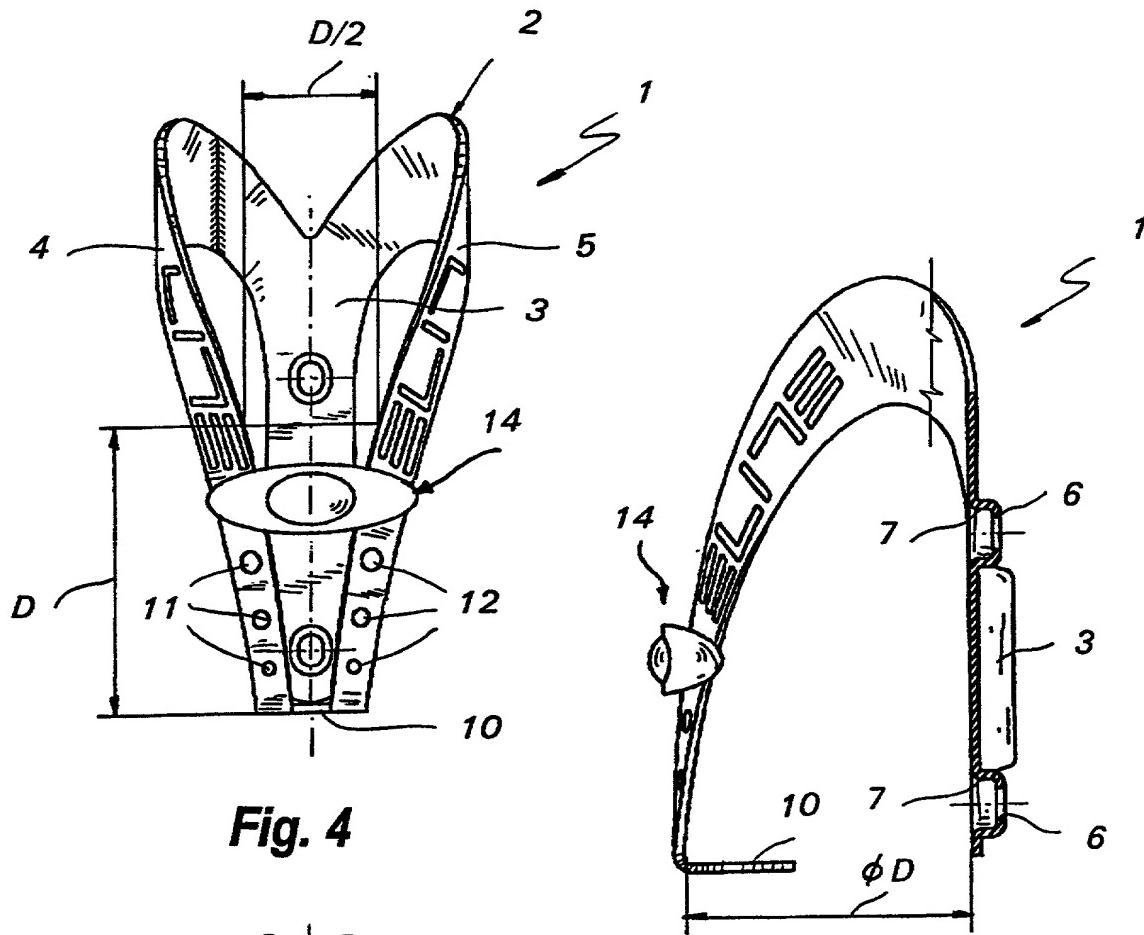


Fig. 4

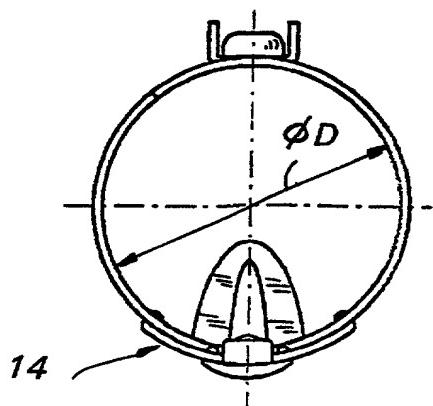


Fig. 6

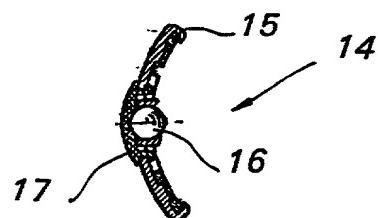
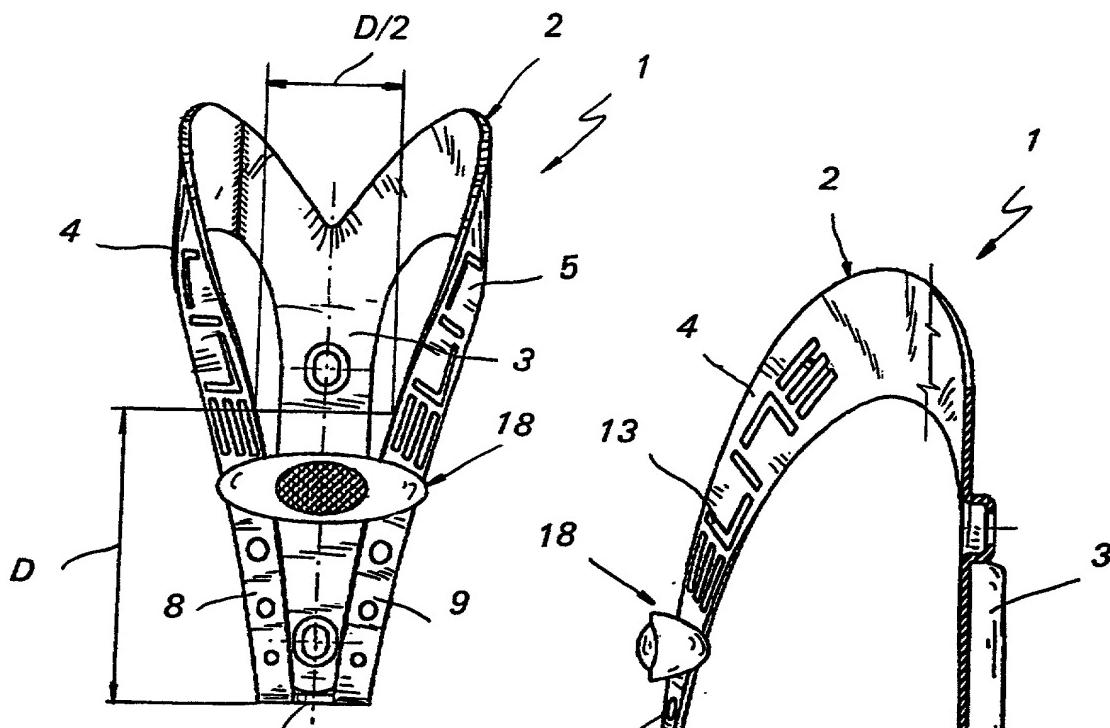
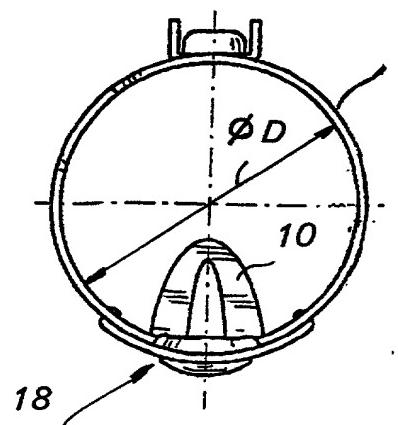
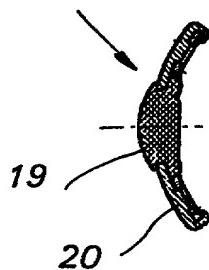
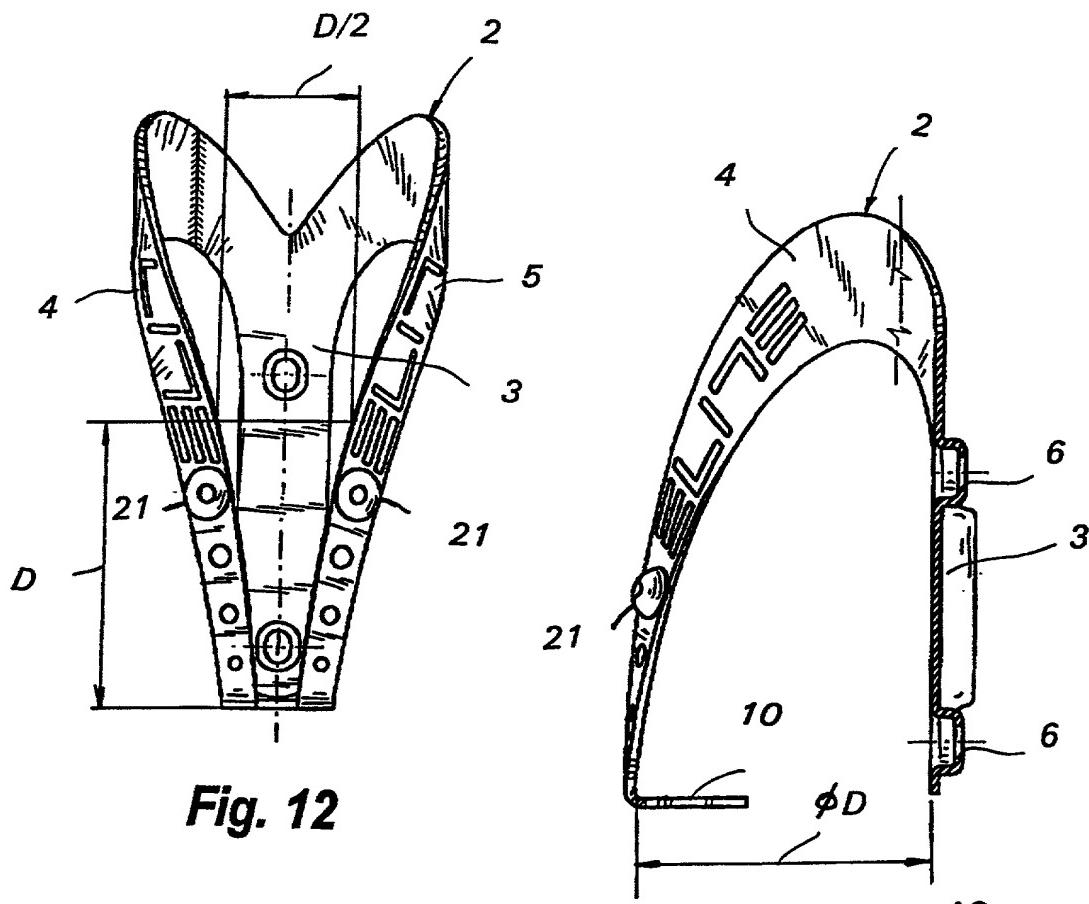
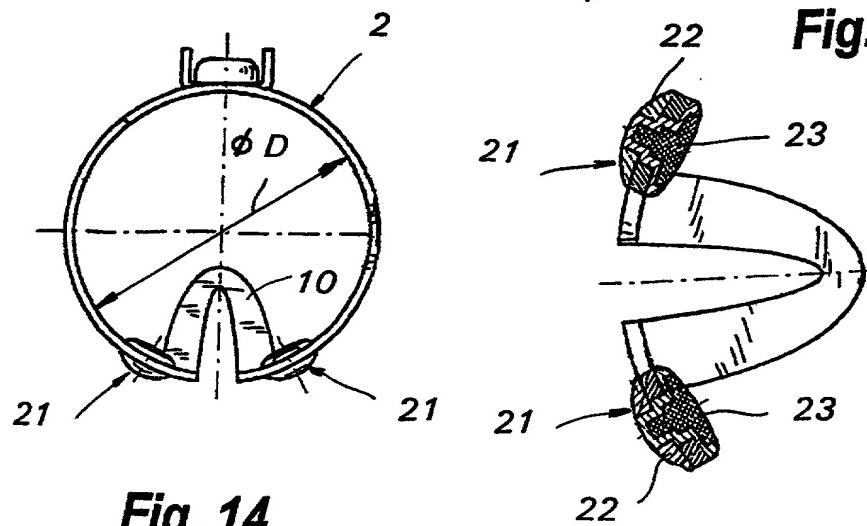


Fig. 7

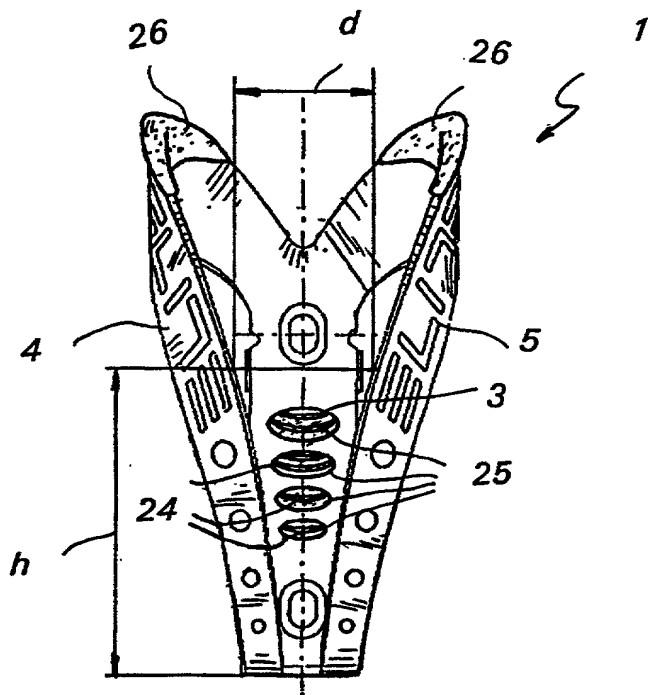
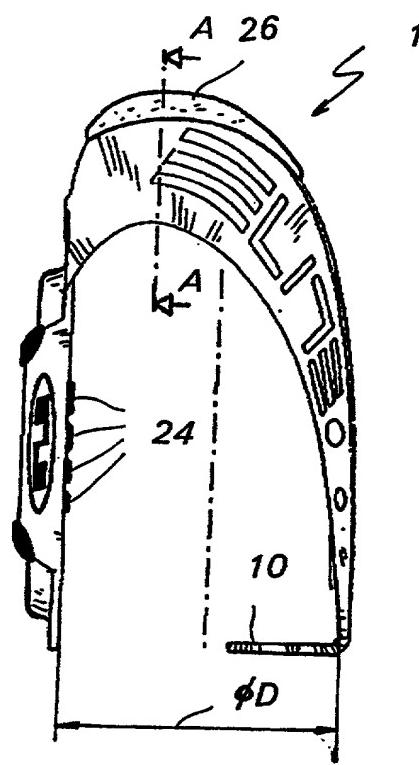
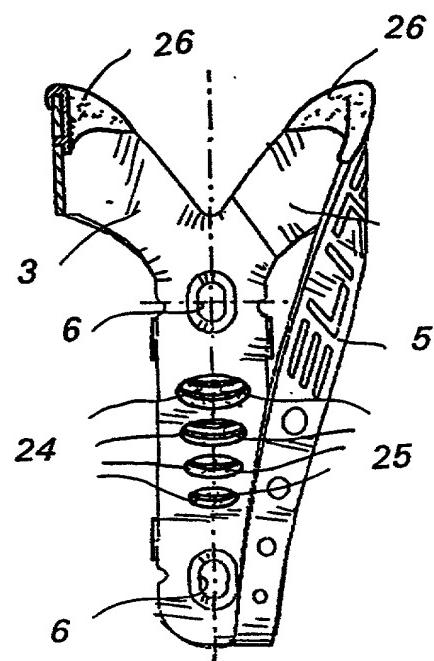
3/6

**Fig. 8****Fig. 9****Fig. 10****Fig. 11**

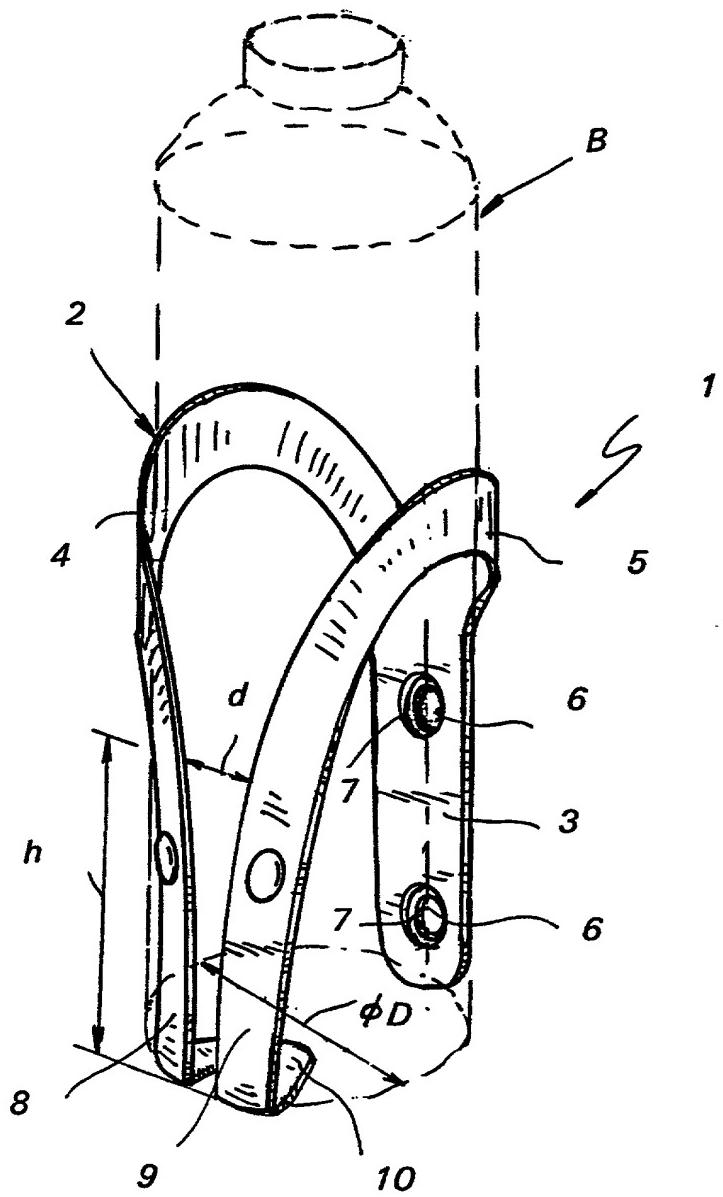
4/6

**Fig. 12****Fig. 13****Fig. 14****Fig. 15**

5/6

**Fig. 16****Fig. 17****Fig. 18**

6/6

**Fig. 19**

Declaration and Power of Attorney for Patent Application

Modulo di Dichiarazione Per Domanda di Brevetto

Italian Language Declaration

Io, sottoscritto inventore, dichiaro con il presente che:

Il mio domicilio, recapito postale e cittadinanza sono quelli indicati in calce accanto al mio nome

Che mi reputo in buona fede esse l'inventore originario, primo e unico (qualora un solo nominativo appaia elencato appresso) o il coinventore primo e originario (qualora i nominativi siano più di uno) dell'invenzione da me rivendicata, e per la quale faccio domanda di brevetto. Tale invenzione è chiamata

**SUPPORTO PER BORRACCE DA BICICLETTA E
CONTENITORI SIMILARI**

e la sua descrizione è:

stata presentata il 29 agosto 2000 come Domanda Internazionale PCT Numero PCT/IB00/01197.

Dichiaro inoltre con il presente di aver letto e compreso il contenuto della specificazione sopra indicata, comprese le rivendicazioni, come rettificata da qualsiasi emendamento a cui si sia accennato sopra.

Riconosco il mio dovere di rivelare informazione che è rilevante all'essere brevettabile secondo i termini del Titolo 37, Codice dei Regolamenti Federali, Comma 1.56.

Con il presente rivendico i benefici di priorità per l'estero come stabilito dal Titolo 35, Codice degli Stati Uniti, Comma 119(a)-(d) o Comma 365(b), per qualsiasi domanda (o domande) di brevetto straniera o per qualsiasi certificato d'invenzione o per qualsiasi domanda (o domande) internazionale PCT designando almeno un paese altro che gli Stati Uniti, sotto elencato, ed ho anche elencato qui sotto tutte le domande di brevetto e certificati d'invenzione stranieri e domande internazionali PCT aventi una data di presentazione anteriore a quella della domanda (o delle domande) per la quale (o per le quali) si rivendica la precedenza:

Prior foreign application(s)
Domande dall'estero precedenti

VI99U000073
(Number)
(Numero)

ITALY
(Country)
(Paese)

03 September 1999
(Day/Month/Year Filed)
(Giorno/Mese/Anno di Presentazione)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Yes	No
Si	No

PCT/IB00/01197
(Number)
(Numero)

INTERNATIONAL
(Country)
(Paesi)

29 August 2000
(Day/Month/Year Filed)
(Giorno/Mese/Anno di Presentazione)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Yes	No
Si	No

Priority claimed
Precedenza Rivendicata

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name.

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled:

**SUPPORT STRUCTURE FOR BICYCLE BOTTLES
AND SIMILAR CONTAINERS**

the specification for which:

was filed on August 29, 2000 as PCT International Application No. PCT/IB00/01197.

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understood the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR § 1.56.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, § 119(a)-(d) or § 365(b) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate, or § 365(a) of any PCT International application (s) designating at least one country other than the United States, listed below, and I have also identified below any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate, or PCT International application(s), having a filing date before that of the application(s) on which priority is claimed.

Italian Language Declaration

Con il presente rivendico il beneficio previsto dal Titolo 35, Codice degli Stati Uniti, Comma 120 per qualsiasi domanda (o domande) di brevetto statunitense, o Comma 365(c) per qualsiasi domanda (o domande) internazionale PCT designando gli stati uniti, sotto indicata, ed entro i limiti nei quali il materiale indicato in ciascuna delle rivendicazioni di questa domanda non è stato rivelato nella precedente domanda (o nelle precedenti domande) statunitense o internazionale PCT nel modo previsto dal primo paragrafo del Titolo 35, Codice degli Stati Uniti, Comma 112, riconosco il mio dovere di rivelare informazione che è rilevante all'essere brevettabile, così come viene definito nel Titolo 37, Codice dei Regolamenti Federali, Comma 1.56, che possa essere venuta disponibile nel periodo intercorso tra la data di presentazione della domanda (o delle domande) precedente e la data nazionale o internazionale PCT di presentazione di questa domanda.

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, §120 of any United States application(s), or §365(c) of any PCT International application(s) designating the United States, listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States or PCT International application(s) in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, § 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56 which became available between the filing date of the prior application(s) and the national or PCT International filing date of this application.

POWER OF ATTORNEY

(Application Number) (Filing Date)
(Numero della Domanda) (Data di Presentazione)

Pending, In attesa di brevetto
(Status- patented, pending, abandoned)
(Stato Giuridico – brevettato, in attesa di brevetto, abbandonato)

(Application Number) (Filing Date)
(Numero della Domanda) (Data di Presentazione)

(Status- patented, pending, abandoned)
(Stato Giuridico – brevettato, in attesa di brevetto, abbandonato)

Dichiaro inoltre con il presente che tutte le informazioni da me fornite sono in fede mia vere, e che tutte le affermazioni da me fatte sono in fede mia vere; dichiaro inoltre che quando ho fatto queste affermazioni ero al corrente del fatto che false dichiarazioni fatte intenzionalmente sono punibili con multa o incarcerazioni, o ambedue, secondo quanto stabilito dalla sezione 1001 del Titolo 18 del Codice degli Stati Uniti, e che tali informazioni intenzionalmente false possono mettere a repentaglio la validità della domanda o di qualsiasi brevetto rilasciato in base ad essa.

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

PROCURA: Io, sottoscritto inventore, nomino con la presente il seguente Procuratore (o Procuratori) e/o Agente (o Agenti) che s'incarica di perseguire questa pratica e di portare a termine tutte le operazioni necessarie all'Ufficio Brevetti e Marchi di Fabbrica pertinenti a questa pratica.

Daniel J. O'Byrne (Reg. No. 36,625) 

Send Correspondence to:

Daniel J. O'Byrne
Via del Parione, 8
50123 Florence, Italy EUROPE

Recapito per la Corrispondenza

Direct Telephone Calls to:

tel.:(001) 39.055 282-261
fax: (001) 39.055 265-0350

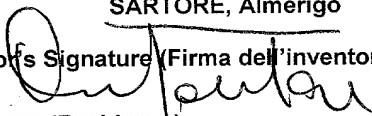
Telefonare a:

Italian Language Declaration

Full name of sole inventor or first joint inventor (Nome completo dell'inventore unico o del primo coinventore)

SARTORE, Almerigo

Inventor's Signature (Firma dell'inventore)



Date (Data)

13. 04. 2001

Residence (Residenza)

Via Velo, 47
35014 FONTANIVA (Vicenza)
ITALY



Citizenship (Cittadinanza)

ITALIAN

Post Office Address (Recapito a Casella Postale)

VIA VELO, 47
35014 FONTANIVA (VICENZA)
ITALY

Full name of sole inventor or second joint inventor (Nome completo dell'inventore unico o del secondo coinventore)

Inventor's Signature (Firma dell'inventore)



Date (Data)



Residence (Residenza)

Citizenship (Cittadinanza)

Post Office Address (Recapito a Casella Postale)

Full name of sole inventor or first joint inventor (Nome completo dell'inventore unico o del primo coinventore)

Inventor's Signature (Firma dell'inventore)



Date (Data)



Residence (Residenza)

Citizenship (Cittadinanza)

Post Office Address (Recapito a Casella Postale)

Full name of sole inventor or first joint inventor (Nome completo dell'inventore unico o del primo coinventore)

Inventor's Signature (Firma dell'inventore)



Date (Data)



Residence (Residenza)

Citizenship (Cittadinanza)

Post Office Address (Recapito a Casella Postale)

Note to inventor(s): please sign exactly as your name appears, and insert the actual date of signing
Per inventore: firmare esattamente come il suo nome appare, e compilare la data attuale della firma

VERIFIED STATEMENT (DECLARATION) CLAIMING SMALL ENTITY STATUS
37 CFR 1.9(f) and 1.27(c)--SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN

I hereby declare that I am

[] the owner of the small business concern identified below:

[X] an official empowered to act on behalf of the small business concern identified below:

NAME OF CONCERN: ELITE SRL

ADDRESS: VIA FORNACI, 4 – 35014 FONTANIVA(Padova) - ITALY

I hereby declare that the above identified small business concern qualifies as a small business concern as defined in 13 CFR 121.3-18, and reproduced in 37 CFR 1.9(d), for purposes of paying reduced fees under 41(a) and (b) of Title 35, U.S. Code, in that the number of employees of the concern, including those of its affiliates, does not exceed 500 persons. For purposes of this statement, (1) the number of employees of the business concern is the average over the previous fiscal year of the concern of the persons employed on a full-time, part-time or temporary basis during each of the pay periods of the fiscal year, and (2) concerns are affiliates of each other when either, directly or indirectly, one concern controls or has the power to control the other, or a third party or parties controls or has the power to control both.

I hereby declare that rights under contract or law have been conveyed to and remain with the small business concern identified above with regard to the invention entitled:

SUPPORT STRUCTURE FOR BICYCLE BOTTLES AND SIMILAR CONTAINERS
by inventor SARTORE, Almerigo.

If the rights held by the above-identified small business concern are not exclusive, each individual, concern or organization having rights to the invention is listed below* and no rights to the invention are held by any person, other than the inventor, who could not qualify as a small business concern under 37 CFR 1.9(d) or by any concern which would not qualify as a small business concern under 37 CFR 1.9(d) or a nonprofit organization under 37 CFR 1.9(e). *Note: separate verified statements are required from each named person, concern or organization having rights to the invention averring to their status as small entities. (37 CFR 1.27)

Name: NONE

Address: _____

[] individual [] small business concern [] nonprofit organization

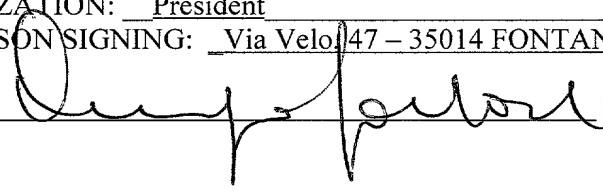
I acknowledge the duty to file, in this application or patent, notification of any change in status resulting in loss of entitlement to small entity status prior to paying, or at the time of paying, the earliest of the issue fee or any maintenance fee due after the date on which status as a small entity is no longer appropriate. (37 CFR 1.28(b)).

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further, that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under 1001 of Title 18 of the U.S. Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application, any patent issuing thereon, or any patent to which this verified statement is directed.

NAME OF PERSON SIGNING: SARTORE, Almerigo

TITLE IN ORGANIZATION: President

ADDRESS OF PERSON SIGNING: Via Velo 47 – 35014 FONTANIVA (Padova) - ITALY

SIGNATURE:  DATE: 13.04.2001